

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00460001

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Ecuador/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 31 MAR 50

SUBJECT Shipments of Czechoslovakian Arms
to Latin American Communist Parties

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. It has recently been learned that before Nela Martinez Espinosa, prominent woman Communist of Ecuador, left Ecuador in April 1949 for an extended trip through Europe, she was instructed by Pedro Saad, who is the real director of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE), to investigate the status of the arms shipment which the PCE expected from Czechoslovakia.* She was not told whom to consult in Czechoslovakia and therefore asked the advice of an influential Party member in whose home she lived in Prague. He made arrangements for her to see an official in the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Government and accompanied her to the meeting. The interview was private, however, except for the presence of an interpreter.
2. Martinez has stated that she spent more than an hour with the official. She said that he spoke very good English and said that he had lived in the United States for several years. He questioned her about the situation in Ecuador and South America and exhibited some knowledge of the history of Ecuador. After this general discussion he said that he was aware of the purpose of Martinez' visit and that he had been authorized to inform her of the following:
 - a. Certain difficulties have prevented the shipment of combat arms to the countries of the American continent, although European Parties which need arms much more urgently, namely Italy, France and Spain to a lesser extent, are being supplied with arms and ammunition via contraband shipments.
 - b. One of the difficulties has been in assuring safe conduct for the shipments, since shipment via normal commercial channels has proved unsatisfactory in the past and will be avoided in the future, if possible.
 - c. Some Latin American Parties, especially the Brazilian Party, are very eager to obtain arms and they, as well as the PCE, will be supplied when the current difficulties are overcome, although no effective arrangements can be made at the present time.
3. A special branch was recently formed in the Comintern for the sole purpose of investigating means by which the Communist Parties of capitalist countries might be supplied with arms. This branch includes a Latin American department. The PCE should do nothing about securing arms until further information is received by it from the Comintern.

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

[illegible]

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 18 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0004600110013-9

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CONFIDENTIAL ~~25X1A~~

- 2 -

- e. The Parties which desire arms must give assurances of safekeeping until the arms are really needed for furtherance of the international movement. It is a definite policy not to supply arms to be used in routine internal uprisings; the arms supplied must be kept secret until the final battle. Several years ago a small supply of arms were shipped to a Party in Latin America. Shortly after receiving them, the Party used them in a revolution in that country. The revolution was put down by the government and the arms confiscated, although fortunately their source was never learned.
- f. The Latin American area has no immediate priority, but the Latin American Parties will receive arms eventually and should realize that the main battle is being fought in Europe and Asia at the present time.

25X1A

*Cf.

25X1A

~~Comment.~~ [redacted] that Saad expected to receive arms shipments from Czechoslovakia in the near future were probably largely wishful thinking occasioned by some nebulous indications that arms would be forthcoming eventually. As early as December 1949 his former enthusiasm had waned, and the current report is believed to present a true picture of the arms situation as it now stands. 25X1X

~~SECRET~~
CONFIDENTIAL